

## NOTES FOR A *STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE*

### Scene 5

I. **Setting**

II. **Blanche**

A. Letter to Shep Huntleigh

1. The epitome of a Southern gentleman
2. In scene 3, she claimed he was married, now she's writing to him. **Why?**

B. **Astrological sign:** Virgo the Virgin (symbolic!)

- a. Stanley's sign is Capricorn the Goat (also symbolic)

C. **Stanley's friend Shaw** who knew her in Laurel, Mississippi at the **Flamingo Hotel**

1. She denies knowing Shaw or having been at the Flamingo Hotel
2. Stanley says he'll have Shaw check it out and "clear up any mistake"
3. Blanche asks Stella if she's heard any rumors about her;
  - a. Stella says no
  - b. Blanche replies: "I wasn't so good the last two years or so, after Belle Reve had started to slip through my fingers. . . . I was never hard or self-sufficient enough. When people are soft--soft people have got to shimmer and glow--they've got to put on soft colors, the colors of butterfly wings, and put a--paper lantern over the light. . . . It isn't enough to be soft. You've got to be soft *and attractive*. And I--I'm fading now! I don't know how much longer I can turn the trick."
  - c. Stella doesn't really pay attention/ listen to what Blanche is telling her. **Why?**

D. **Mitch**

1. **Blanche covers up her nervous behavior:** "I guess I'm just feeling nervous about our relations. He hasn't gotten a thing but a goodnight kiss, that's all I've given him, Stella. I want his respect. And men don't want anything they get too easy. But on the other hand, men lose interest quickly. They think a girl over thirty ought to--the vulgar term is--'put out.' And I--I'm not 'putting out.' Of course he--he doesn't know--I mean I haven't informed him--of my real age!"

"Stella: 'Why are you sensitive about your age?'"

"Blanche: 'Because of hard knocks my vanity's been given. What I mean is--he thinks I'm sort of prim and proper, you know! I want to deceive him enough to make him--want me. . . .'"

"Stella: 'Blanche, do you want him?'"

"Blanche: 'I want to rest! I want to breathe quietly again! Yes--I want Mitch. . .very badly! Just think! I can leave her and not be anyone's problem. . .'"

E. **Blanche is drinking Coke;** wants a shot in it; Coke fizzes up and defies her white dress

F. **Comes on to the paper boy. Why?**

1. **Cherry soda**